

Remarks

Claims 1 and 5 are amended herein, claims 2-4 and 14 are canceled, and new claim 17 is added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 5-13, and 15-17 will be pending. Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 15 and 16 were allowed, and that claims 4-13 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

1. Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 112

Applicant has canceled claim 14. Consequently, the rejection of this claim is moot.

2. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner indicated in the Office action that claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicant has herein amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claims 2, 3, and 4, as suggested by the Examiner. As amended, claim 1 is equivalent to claim 4 rewritten in independent form. It is believed that claim 1 is in allowable form, and applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Claims 2-4 are canceled. Claims 5-13, depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, applicant requests that the rejections of claims 5-13 be withdrawn.

3. New Claim 17

The Examiner indicated in the Office action that claim 10 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening

claims. New claim 17 is equivalent to claim 10 but is rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 17 is allowable.

4. Conclusion

As it is believed the application is in condition for allowance, a favorable action and Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 5-13, and 15-17 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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